

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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R 121717Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3123

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USIAC

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PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ:

GON SHUT DOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION (ENA) IN NIAMEY MONDAY AND BY WEEK'S END IT STILL UNCERTAIN IF ACADEMIC YEAR WOULD BE LOST. GOVERNMENT'S ACTION FOLLOWED CLASSROOM DISTURBANCE DIRECTED AGAINST NIGERIEN PROFESSOR AND EXPULSION STUDENT INSTIGATOR. STUDENT BODY SUBSEQUENTLY STRUCK IN LATTER'S SUPPORT. THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY CLOSURE ARE APPROXIMATELY 75 STUDENTS REPRESENTING TOTAL ENROLLMENT ENA'S FOUR ADVANCED YEARS. BARRING FURTHER DISTURBANCES GOVERNMENT MAY REOPEN INTERMEDIATE AND ELEMENTARY SECTION. HOWEVER GON APPEARS DETERMINED PUNISH ADVANCED SECTION STUDENTS SINCE MANY ARE CIVIL SERVANTS PERMITTED EXTENDED LEAVE TO PURSUE PROFESSIONAL STUDIES AT ENA. EVENTS TOOK PLACE WHILE PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE RETURNED WEDNESDAY.

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COMMENT

PRESIDENT IS OBLIGED GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION ENA DEVELOPMENTS. GENERAL BELIEF IS INTERIM GOVERNMENT OVERREACTED POSSIBLY FEARING SPREAD STUDENT DISSENSION WHILE KOUNTCHE AWAY. THERE IS OPTIMISM THEREFORE AT LEAST PART OF SCHOOL WILL REOPEN. ENA CLOSING APPRECIABLY AFFECTS SEVERAL USIS PROJECTS AS FOLLOWS: 1) GON MAY RESCIND ITS APPROVAL ALLOW NIGER CANDIDATES PARTICIPATE OCA PROSHARE PROGRAM FOR ENA GRANTEES 2) STAG W.A.E. SKURNIK'S LECTURE SCHEDULE WHICH DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR ENA'S ADVANCED STUDENTS POSSIBLY BE REDUCED TO JSUT THREE LECTURES AT UNIVERSITY NIAMEY 3) POST CANCELED PLANS SEND ENA PARTICIPANTS TO ANTHONY KETTANEH SEMINAR IN OUAGADOUGOU 4) POST LOSES OPPORTUNITY EXPAND STAG MARK TESSLER LECTURE PROGRAM FOLLOWING INTEREST EXPRESSED SEVERAL ENA PROFESSORS INVITE HIM FOR STUDY GROUP DISCUSSIONS. SYNODIS

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